

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 05912 311708Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
MCT-01 /062 W
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R 311530Z MAR 78
FM AMMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1732
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS HOLD MEETING OF LOCAL
SECRETARIES

1. AS PART OF AN EFFORT TO RALLY THE TROOPS AND TO DEMONSTRATE
PARTY UNITY IN THE WAKE OF THE KIDNAPPING OF ON. ALDO
MORO, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PART (DC) LEADERS CONVENED
IN ROME ON MARCH 29 A CONFERENCE OF PARTY REGIONAL AND
PROVINCIAL SECRETARIES. THE CONFERENCE, WHICH WAS HELD
BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, HAD AS FEATRUED SPEAKERS DC SECRETARY
BENIGNO ZACCAGNINI AND PART VICE SECRETARY
GIOVANNI GALLONI.

2. STRESSING FIDELITY TO THE PRESENT PARTY LINE AND
STATING THAT THE DC WOULD NOT GIVE IN TO TERRORISTS,
ZACCAGNIN TOLD THE ASEMBLED PARTY LEADERS THAT QUOTE
WHILE AWAITING THE RETURN OF ALDO MORO, WHICH REPRESENTS
AT THIS DRAMATIC MOMENT THE HARDEST TASK OF OUR DEMOCRATIC
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SYSTEM, THERE WILL NOT BE IN OUR PARTY INSTITUTIONAL NOR
FUNCTIONAL VOIDS. END QUOTE. ADDRESSING THE PHENOMENON
OF TERRORISTS IN ITALY, ZACCAGNINI REJECTED THE IDEA OF
CAVING IN TO THEIR BLACKMAIL AND WARNED THAT THE PARTY
SHOULD NOT BEND IN THE FACE OF VIOLENCE.

3. ZACCAGNINI IN HIS SPEECH PLACED PARTICULAR STRESS

ON THE NEED FOR PARTY UNITY. HE NOTED THAT CERTAIN CRITICISM FROM WITHIN DC RANKS IN RECENT DAYS HAS TARNISHED THE PARTY'S IMAGE AND CREATED DOUBTS IN PUBLIC OPINION, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT HAS BEEN RAISED IN IMPORPER AND INOPPORTUNE WAYS. IN HIS SPEECH ZACCAGNIN ALSO RELAUNCHED THE IDEA OF PARTY RENEW).

4. IN HIS PRESENTATION, GALLONI DEVELOPED ZACCAGNINI'S POINT ON THE NEED FOR CONTINUITY IN PARTY POLICY. HE REAFFIRMED THE POLICY OF QUOTE THE CONFRONTO END QUOTE, AND MENTIONED THE NEED TO ESTABLISH CLEARLY THE LIMITS OF THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED AGREEMENT WHICH BROUHT THE COMMUNISTS INTO THE PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY. IN PURSUING THE POLICY OF THE CONFRONTO, GALLONI SAID IT WOULD NOT LEAD TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY SINCE THIS WOULD REQUIRE BASIC CHANGES ON THE PART OF THE COMMUNISTS WHICH UNTIL NOW HAVE NOT OCCURED. REFERRING TO DEVELOPMENTS ON A LOCAL LEVEL, GALLONI URGED EXTREAME CAUTION IN ORDER OT PUT A BARAKE ON THE PROCESS TAKING PLACE IN SOME AREAS TO MOVE BEYOND THE AGREEMENT REACHED ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL AND TO BRING THE COMMUNISTS INTO A TRULY POLITICAL MAJORITY. CONCLUDING HIS SPEECH, GALLONI ANNOUNCED THAT A FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE PARTY DIRECTORATE WOULD CONVOKE A SESSION OF THE DC NATIONAL COUNCIL.GARDNER

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